

NEPA REVIEW CHECK LIST

END USER DEVELOPS PROJECT DESIGN. ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER IDENTIFIES ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.

A **Categorical Exclusion (CATEX)** may be granted for routine research and facility operations which do not significantly impact human safety and health or the environment. The following checklist will document a **CATEX**.

ACTIVITY	NO	YES	CATEX	EA	EIS
1. Is project a research activity or study, such as resource inventories or routine data collection that are limited in context and intensity?					
2. Is project a repair or replacement of structural components, or routine maintenance of facilities controlled by ARS which do not involve hazardous materials or abatement?					
3. Is project an operation conducted in a laboratory, greenhouse or other contained facility where practices and safeguards prevent environment impacts such as release of hazardous materials into the environment?					
4. Is project an operation outside the laboratory or greenhouse that involves only small isolated field plots, which do not involve the use of control agents or a regulatory agency license or permit?					

If a project does not qualify for a **CATEX**, further review and documentation of the project's impact on human safety and/or the environment are required. The following checklist is used to determine whether an additional environmental review to prepare a **Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)** or **FONSI with Alternatives** or an **Environmental Assessment (EA)** or **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** will be required.

ACTIVITY	NO	YES	FONSI	EA	EIS*
1. Will project take technology from small lab or field study to large scale demonstrations?					
2. Will project test control agents on small plots outside the lab which require containment precautions or regulatory agency license or permit?					
3. Is project a R&M operation that requires an abatement action (including but not limited to asbestos, lead, PCB, fiberglass, mercury, etc.)?					
4. Is project a R&M operation that require disposal of hazardous materials and/or landfill disposals?					
5. Does project involve construction (new building, greenhouse, field, etc.)?					
6. Will project have an impact on local environment such as air and water quality, earth excavation, noise, explosives, weather modifications, etc.?					
7. Will project affect a wetland or flood plain? An example would be placing a stream gate weir across a free-running stream?					
8. Will project affect an endangered species or critical wildlife habitat?					
9. Is project or activity considered controversial or of public concern?					
10. Is project a full scale testing of a controlled agent over a very large area?					
11. Does project EA determine the activity is such that an EIS is required?					

* If a project triggers an **Environmental Impact Statement**, the Area Director and/or Location management may decide not to support the preparation of an **EIS**. If a required EIS is not performed, the project will not be authorized.

Project Name:

Impact Determination: _____ Review Performed By: _____ Date: _____

In accordance with ARS' policy for the **National Environmental Policy Act** (7 CFR Part 520) and the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1500-1508) this document will be filed and maintained as a Facility Environmental Record with a copy of the project description and supporting review documentation.

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